

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MASERU 00658 182027Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
IO-13 HA-05 CA-01 PPT-01 /079 W  
-----051666 191434Z /40

R 161425Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8408  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
USMISSION UN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MASERU 0658

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PBOR, EALR, LT, SF (TRANSKEI)  
SUBJECT: TELE BRIDGE BORDER POST

REF: MASERU 0603,

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFFS VISITED TELE BRIDGE BORDER POST (LEADING TO  
HERSCHEL AREA OF TRANSKEI) ON MARCH 13 AND FOUND THAT GOODS WERE  
CROSSING THE BORDER, BUT NO CITIZENS OF LESOTHO WERE CROSSING.  
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS SPENT ABOUT ONE AND A HALF HOURS IN TELE BRIDGE BORDER  
POST AREA ON MARCH 13. DURING THAT TIME FOUR VEHICLES AND THREE  
PEDESTRIANS CROSSED THE LESOTHO-TRANSKEI BORDER. THE VEHICLES  
HAD SOUTH AFRICAN OR TRANSKEIAN PLATES AND THE PEDESTRIANS HAD  
SOUTH AFRICAN OR TRANSKEIAN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. ONE MOSOTHO  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MASERU 00658 182027Z

(CITIZEN OF LESOTHO) CROSSED THE BRIDGE TO TURN IN A VISA  
APPLICATION AT THE TRANSKEI BORDER POST. HE DID NOT TURN IN HIS  
PASSPORT, BUT SHOWED IT TO THE OFFICER.

3. ON TALKING TO IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER,  
IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT NO BASOTHO HAD CROSSED THE BORDER SINCE  
FEBRUARY 17 AND NO VISAS FOR THE TRANSKEI HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED

BY BASOTHO APPLICANTS. GOL'S PASSPORT CONTROL OFFICER APPEARED TO ALLOW BASOTHO TO APPLY FOR TRANSKEI VISAS, EVEN THOUGH GOL WISHES TO DISCOURAGE THIS. ONE SHOPKEEPER IN THE AREA TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE WANTED TO APPLY FOR A VISA BUT GOL DID NOT ALLOW IT SO HE COULDN'T. HE WAS UNAWARE THAT HE WOULD NOT BE STOPPED BY GOL OFFICIALS AT THE BORDER.

4. SHOPS IN THE TELE BRIDGE AREA SEEMED VERY WELL STOCKED. SHOPKEEPERS SAID THEY WERE OBTAINED GOODS EITHER FROM ZASTRON (SOUTH AFRICA) VIA MOHALE'S HOEK, OR BY CALLING IN ORDERS WHICH WERE THEN DELIVERED TO THE BRIDGE BORDER POST FOR THEM TO PICK UP. EMBOFFS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE A BAKERY TRUCK WITH TRANSKEI PLATES CROSS THE BORDER, WHERE THE DRIVER AND ASSISTANT LEFT A CUSTOMS FORM AND THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (THEY WERE GIVEN A LARGE IMMIGRATION CARD TO CARRY WITH THEM AND TURN IN ON DEPARTURE IN EXCHANGE FOR WHICH THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WOULD BE RETURNED.) ONCE OUT OF SIGHT OF THE BORDER POST, THE TRUCK STOPPED AND A YOUNG MAN WITH A TRUNK GOT OUT OF THE BACK. THE TRUCK APPEARED TO BE CARRYING A DOZEN CARTONS AND A NUMBER OF COLLAPSED CARTONS -- IT WAS NEARLY EMPTY. EMBOFFS WERE UNABLE TO TALK TO THE YOUNG MAN TO LEARN HIS STORY, BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOME ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS ARE TAKING PLACE.

5. COMMENT: TELE BRIDGE IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO MOHALE'S HOEK NOT TO FEEL THE PINCH OF THE NEW TRANSKEI VISA REQUIREMENTS TOO SEVERELY. HOWEVER, GOODS REACHING THE TELE BRIDGE-QUTHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MASERU 00658 182027Z

AREA VIA MOHALE'S HOEK MAY BE SLIGHTLY MORE EXPENSIVE DUE TO INCREASED TRANSPORT COSTS. PEOPLE IN THE AREA SEEMED ONLY MILDLY IRRITATED BY BORDER PROBLEMS. END COMMENT.  
STOKES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, TRANSKEI, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MASERU00658  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780121-1285  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MASERU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780361/aaaabzcp.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** ac1b4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 MASERU 603  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3310669  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TELE BRIDGE BORDER POST  
**TAGS:** PBOR, EALR, LT, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ac1b4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014